

Federal Emergency Management Agency

National Advisory Council (NAC)

Conference Call

Federal Insurance & Mitigation Subcommittee

Report Out

December 3, 2013

Chair: Nancy Dragani

Vice-Chair: Pat Santos



FEMA

Subcommittee Mission

To advise and provide recommendations to the FEMA National Advisory Council on strategies to lessen the loss of life and property from the impact of disasters; and ensuring through deliberation and promulgation of recommendations that representation, awareness, engagement, and integration of the whole community and FEMA's strategic goals are addressed.



FEMA

Charges

1. Provide input on FEMA's implementation of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform Bill that was signed by the President on July 6.
2. Investigate and advise on FEMA's initiative regarding total costs of flooding and who bears the costs.



FEMA

Charges cont'd

3. Advise on the public education and outreach for the flood insurance program and how its effectiveness is measured.
4. Explore mechanisms and options for FEMA to streamline the mitigation grant programs to allow all communities, particularly smaller communities (local and rural), to take advantage of mitigation opportunities.



FEMA

Recommendation #1

- The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 requires FEMA to conduct several studies associated with the implementation of the Act.
- The subcommittee recommends FEMA prioritize the following issues for consideration:
 - Encourage and maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP);
 - Educate consumers about the NFIP and the flood risk associated with their property; and
 - Complete the Affordability Study.



FEMA

Recommendation #2

- The subcommittee identified the Community Rating System (CRS) and associated discounts on flood insurance premiums as a significant and active measure that community leaders can take in reducing the impact of the Act on their citizens.
- The subcommittee recommends that FEMA and the Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA) conduct a systematic analysis of community participation. This analysis should focus on obstacles that prevent participation, identify methods to increase participation, and establish options to incentivize attempts to attain higher ratings.



FEMA

Recommendation #2 cont'd

- The subcommittee also recommends that FEMA and FIMA consider a public engagement strategy that targets realtors, building associations, bankers, chambers of commerce and other impacted industries and organizations with a direct and vested interest in strong and resilient communities.



FEMA

Recommendation #3

- The subcommittee feels that there is a significant lack of intentional and sustained engagement with the public which may lead to misinformation and public confusion.
- The subcommittee recommends that FEMA immediately conduct a comprehensive and aggressive public information campaign for two impacted audiences:
 - Property owners in Flood Zones A or V
 - Property owners placed in a Special Flood Hazard Area due to remapping



FEMA

Recommendation #4

- Homeowners and businesses, particularly those in Flood Zones A and V, may be facing steep increases in NFIP premiums.
- In addition, the entire community may be impacted by these increases in the forms of reduced enrollments in local schools, lost tax revenue and other secondary and tertiary effects.



FEMA

Recommendation #4 cont'd

- The subcommittee recommends FEMA and FIMA look for ways to minimize the impact of the steep increases that may be faced by homeowners and businesses, particularly those in Flood Zones A and V.
- The subcommittee also recommends FEMA and FIMA consider the secondary and tertiary impacts of the implementation of the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 on the whole community, not just the property owners.



FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency

National Advisory Council (NAC)

Conference Call

Preparedness & Protection Subcommittee

Report Out

December 3, 2013

Chair: Lee Feldman

Vice-Chair: Jeff Walker



FEMA

Subcommittee Mission

To advise and provide recommendations to the FEMA National Advisory Council regarding the missions of FEMA National Preparedness & Protection, including those specifically addressed in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA); and ensuring through deliberation and promulgation of recommendations that representation, awareness, engagement, and integration of the whole community and FEMA's strategic goals are addressed.



FEMA

Charges

1. Examine issues related to the whole community's preparedness and protection for natural, manmade and accidental disasters;
2. Provide recommendations and/or opine on preparedness, protection, and prevention efforts currently underway or being considered by FEMA;
3. Independent of requests from FEMA, provide recommendations to the NAC upon reviewing new and innovative preparedness, protection and prevention efforts, lessons learned and best practices.



FEMA

The Review and Revision of the National Incident Management System

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) document was last revised in December 2008. The NIMS document is reviewed on a 2-year cycle and revised to incorporate Presidential directives, legislative changes, and procedural changes based upon lessons learned from exercises, actual incidents, and planned events. The National Integration Center (NIC) is commencing a review and revision cycle and has requested input and recommendations from the National Advisory Council (NAC).



FEMA

Recommendation #1

- The NIMS audience must be more clearly defined and consist of stakeholders to which NIMS is relevant.
 - NIMS is not an operational incident management or resource allocation plan. NIMS represents a core set of doctrines, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes that enables effective, efficient, and collaborative incident management. Therefore the audience of relevant stakeholders for NIMS may be a subset of the “Whole Community.”
 - To expect a vast majority of individuals to read and understand the complexities of NIMS is unreasonable and therefore the NIMS document should not be drafted to be specifically relevant to the “individuals and families” segment of the Whole Community; rather those individuals and families should be served through their elected and appointed officials and policy makers.



FEMA

Recommendation #1 cont'd

- The current NIMS document does not sufficiently explain and incorporate the role of nongovernmental organizations and the private sector in emergency management.
- The drafting of the revised NIMS document must take into account relevant stakeholders as the intended NIMS audience(s). Specifically that audience should include all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.



FEMA

Recommendation #2

- NIMS must integrate effectively with other response systems employed during response and recovery activities.
 - For NIMS to be relevant to stakeholders, NIMS must be compatible (not in conflict) with the doctrines, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes of other agencies and groups. The NIC, during the review and revision process, should ensure that NIMS integrates effectively with the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), the National Contingency Plan and the Department of Defense's Support of Civil Authorities mission and other response systems.



FEMA

Recommendation #3

- FEMA must develop an aggressive rollout of the revised NIMS document.
 - FEMA should consider the development of incentives to motivate stakeholders to readily adopt NIMS and to utilize the NIMS document.
 - As was done for the National Response Framework (NRF), FEMA should consider the promulgation of Partner Guides to provide a targeted index to information in the NIMS document that is specifically pertinent to the subject partners (stakeholder).
 - The process of promulgating the revisions of the NIMS document is an important of a process as the revision process itself. Therefore, the NIC should develop the promulgation strategies early on in the revision process, rather than at its conclusion. The strategies should be specific to intended audience(s) [see Recommendation 1 above].



FEMA

Recommendation #4

- The term “NIMS Compliant” and the need for “NIMS Compliance” must be better defined and measurable.
 - The NIC should incorporate into the revised NIMS document specific NIMS compliance metrics for federal departments, state and territorial governments, tribal nations and local governments to ensure consistent application by federal departments.



FEMA

Recommendation #5

- The 2-year review and revision cycle should be re-examined to determine if it is both realistic and appropriate.
 - In order to effectively engage stakeholders, a review and revision cycle of longer than two years is necessary.
 - Revisions to NIMS should not be based upon a specific timetable. Rather those updates should be conducted within a timeframe that supports stakeholder engagement and without compression that creates an unrealistic and unachievable expectation for review and revision. Likewise, the timeframe for review and revisions must be frequent enough to ensure the constant relevancy of NIMS.



FEMA